

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 NEA-10 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /140 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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E. O. 11652: N / A

TAGS: MILI PINS PINT UG

SUBJECT: GENERAL AMIN ORDERS FIVE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS
ON TWO MONTHS' LEAVE

REF: KAMPALA 2035

SUMMARY: ON JULY 3 GENERAL AMIN ORDERED FIVE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, ALL OF WHOM HAD RECENTLY BEEN RELIEVED OF THEIR COMMANDS, TO TAKE SIXTY DAYS' LEAVE. THEY ARE COLONEL TOKO, LT. COL. TOLOKO, LT. COL. BUNYENYEZI, LT. COL. MUSA, AND MAJOR BAKER. AMIN TOLD THEM THAT IF THEY BEHAVED THEMSELVES WHILE ON LEAVE HE WOULD GIVE THEM NEW ASSIGNMENTS AT THE END OF THE LEAVE PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL AMIN SUMMONED FIVE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS RECENTLY RELIEVED OF THEIR COMMANDS TO HIS OFFICE JULY 3 AND INFORMED THEM THAT HE WAS PLACING THEM ON 60 DAYS' LEAVE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WERE FIVE OFFICERS WHO REPLACED THEM IN THEIR COMMAND POSITIONS, PLUS ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER LT. COL. MONDO, ARMY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. NYANGWESO, AND
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ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF BRIG. ARUBE.

FIVE COMMAND POSITIONS AFFECTED (MOST PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED;
SEE REFTTEL) ARE:

COMMANDER, AIR FORCE: COL. GUWEDDEKO REPLACED COL. TOKO;
CHIEF SIGNALS OFFICER, UGANDA ARMED FORCES: LT. COL.
MICHAEL OLWOR MONDO REPLACED MAJOR BAKER;
COMMANDER, MALIRE MECHANIZED REGIMENT: LT. COL. ELI
REPLACED LT. COL. MUSA;
COMMANDANT, SCHOOL OF PARATROOPERS : MAJOR SABUNI
REPLACED LT. COL. BUNYENYEZI;
COMMANDANT, GENERAL HQ, UGANDA ARMED FORCES:
MAJOR PANGARASIO ONEK REPLACED LT. COL. TOLOKO.
IN ADDITION MAJOR ONEK WILL BE OFFICER- IN- CHARGE OF
ALL OPERATIONS OF MILITARY CEREMONIES.

2. IN HIS LECTURE TO OFFICERS AMIN NOTED THAT NEW COMMANDERS
HAD BEEN CHOSEN ON MERIT. HE ADVISED FIVE OFFICERS GOING ON
LEAVE TO BUILD HOUSES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES
(PRESUMABLY FOR UNSTATED REASON THAT THEY ARE BEING KICKED
OUT OF THEIR GOU- SUPPLIED VILLAS). AT END OF THEIR LEAVES,
GENERAL SAID, HE WILL INVITE THEM ONE BY ONE TO BE BRIEFED
ON THEIR NEW ASSIGNMENTS. GENERAL WARNED THEM TO BEWARE OF
RUMORS AND RUMOR- MONGERS (GENTERED IN KAMPALA), SUCH AS RUMOR
THAT TOKO AND BUNYENYEZI HAD FLED COUNTRY. AMIN NOTED THAT
TOKO HAD BEEN WITH HIM IN ADDIS AND HAD THEN BEEN
SENT TO EGYPT ON AN OFFICIAL MISSION.

3. GENERAL GAVE HINT ABOUT THEIR NEW ASSIGNMENTS WHEN HE
ASSERTED THERE IS NEED FOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE ECONOMIC
SECTOR, JUST AS SOME OFFICERS ARE SERVING IN AMBASSADORIAL POSI-
TIONS. ALL OFFICERS ARE SUBJECT TO TRANSFER TO ANY POSITION IN
UGANDA. THEY SHOULD NOW GO HOME, GENERAL SAID, REST, BUILD
HOUSES AND " GET USED TO VILLAGE LIFE." IF THEY MISBEHAVE WHILE
ON LEAVE HE WILL SEND THEM RETIREMENT LETTERS AND THEY WILL
NEVER AGAIN BE EMPLOYED IN ANY GOU POST. GENERAL WARNED OFFICERS
AGAINST INFLUENCE OF IMPERIALISTS, TRIBALISM, RELIGIOUS
DIFFERENCES, PLACING THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAW AND GIVING A BAD
NAME TO UGANDA OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. OFFICERS GOING ON LEAVE
WERE ORDERED TO TURN IN THEIR WEAPONS BEFORE PROCEEDING ON
LEAVE.

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4. IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT THESE IMPORTANT RESHUFFLES
OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE RESULTED FROM AMIN' S FEAR
THAT SOME OF HIS OFFICERS ARE NOT LOYAL TO HIS REGIME AND ARE
CAPABLE OF PLANNING TO DISPLACE HIM AT HELM OF COUNTRY.
KEELEY

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